

The Alexandria Gazette

TUESDAY EVENING, FEB. 21.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTH DAY.—To-morrow being the anniversary of the Birth Day of Washington, in honor of the occasion, and in continuation of an uninterrupted custom observed for sixty five years past, the office of the Alexandria Gazette will be closed, and no paper issued. We doubt not but that all our subscribers will unite in agreeing that the venerable custom of which we have spoken, should be kept up by this venerable paper.

Military Operations in South Carolina, &c.

The evacuation of CHARLESTON is announced in Richmond papers of yesterday morning, extracts from which were forwarded to the U. S. War Department by Gen. Grant, and are contained in an official bulletin. A dispatch from Adm'l. Dahlgren to the Secretary of the Navy, dated on Saturday, says the Confederates were abandoning Charleston that morning, and he was on his way to the city.—General Sherman's army, according to the Southern accounts, was near Winnsboro', Fairfield district, S. C., last Sunday morning, a point on the railroad leading to Charlotte, N. C., about thirty miles north of Columbia.

The Confederate authorities commenced the removal of government property, specie, &c., from Columbia about two weeks previous to its evacuation, but for the want of railroad transportation and time, they destroyed a large quantity of medical stores, and abandoned the establishment for the printing of the treasury notes. One establishment, it is stated contained 102 presses, and was the largest in the South. Gen. Beauregard evacuated the city on Friday morning, and the Union troops took possession without any opposition.

Some further particulars of the cavalry engagement which took place at Aiken, S. C., are given in the Richmond Whig of Friday last. It is claimed that Wheeler, besides routing Kipatrick and driving him back in confusion for a distance of five miles, took a considerable number of prisoners, among whom were a portion of the thirty third Massachusetts regiment.

A dispatch received in Richmond from Wilmington, N. C., states that the Union forces shelled Fort Anderson furiously during Friday afternoon and nearly all that night, and that up to 1 o'clock on Saturday afternoon cannonading was still going on. No particulars are given. A force of Union troops, 400 strong, the Southern papers say, are advancing from Knoxville, Tenn., and had reached Greenville, which is 51 miles from Bristol. It is supposed to be another raid on the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad.

A movement by the Union troops on Kingston, N. C., in heavy force, is reported to be in progress, and also a cavalry raid in the direction of Tarboro', N. C. Besides these, a demonstration for the purpose of destroying the Wilmington Railroad at Rocky Mount Station, in Edge county, it is stated, is being made by a body of Union troops from Newbern.

Information from the Army of the Potomac as late as Sunday morning reports all quiet. Deserters are reported as constantly coming in.

NEWS BY TO-DAY'S MAIL.

An expedition of Michigan cavalry started up the Shenandoah Valley on last Wednesday evening. They met with slight opposition at different points, but nothing to seriously interfere with their progress. After a march of about forty miles they reached their destination, which was Charlotte Iron Furnace, on Water Lick creek, which was in full blast, preparing iron for shot and shell at the rate of from sixty to one hundred tons per day. This the troopers completely destroyed, with all its machinery and materials, when they commenced their return march.

In the U. S. Senate yesterday, Mr. Morrill, from the Committee of Commerce, reported adversely upon Mr. Morgan's bill "to create a board of five, to be appointed by the President to have the supervision and management of all lands and real estate in the States in rebellion, and which may have been abandoned by the owners, or to the possession of which the U. S. may be entitled by sales for taxes, or otherwise, &c."

The year 1864 was remarkable for the number and destructiveness of its fires, both in the Old and the New Worlds. From statistics collected from the most reliable records, the total loss by burning in the United States is estimated at not less than \$50,000,000. In the Northern States alone, during the month of July, which was memorable for ravages by fire everywhere, property was consumed to the amount of upwards of \$5,000,000.

The Congress at Richmond is earnestly engaged in strengthening the army in the field, by a modification of the system of details; by the adoption of more stringent laws in relation to conscription; and by the introduction of resolutions looking to the arming of slaves.

Information was received yesterday of the destruction, on the 24 ult., of the schooner Delphina, a blockade runner, with 150 bales of cotton, by one of the U. S. steamers belonging to the West Gulf blockading squadron.

Col. Livingston, commanding on the Plains, reports two fights at Mul Springs from the 4th to the 9th instant, between nearly 2,000 Indians and about 200 of the Ohio and Iowa cavalry, under Col. Collins. The Indians were driven off with a loss of 45 killed.

A desperate affair occurred last Tuesday in Lunenburg county, Va., between some deserters from the Confederate army and some of the 9th Virginia cavalry, aided by citizens. Several on both sides were wounded. The deserters were finally captured.

The London correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune mentions the sailing of a Confederate steamer originally built for the Danes; the same account in substance, concerning the vessels, as has been given by other N. Y. papers.

Gen. Ord has expressed himself as willing and anxious to restore civil government in Virginia, wherever it was suppressed by Gen. Butler; and a plan of action, to that effect, has been arranged between Gov. Pierpoint and himself.

Several more blockade runners have returned to Havana, unable to make an entrance into Southern ports. It is said the Confederates intend purchasing small schooners to run to the coast of Florida.

U. S. CONGRESS.—In the Senate, yesterday, the Vice President laid before that body the resolutions of the Maryland Legislature in opposition to the extension of the Northern Central Railroad to the limits of the District of Columbia. The amendatory revenue bill was referred to the finance committee. The vote by which the army appropriation bill was passed was reconsidered and the amendment offered by Mr. Trumbull to repeal all laws and regulations which give additional rank and pay to regular, over volunteer officers, was rejected, after which the bill passed. Mr. Trumbull, from the committee on the judiciary, reported a bill to recognize Louisiana as in the Union.

In the House, a large number of resolutions, as usual on Monday, were introduced. One calling on the President and Secretaries of State and War for lists of persons held in confinement for political offences, went over after an ineffectual motion to lay it on the table. The bill to provide governments for the rebellious States was discussed, but no action taken.

Advices from Chili say that on and after May 1, the coasting trade of that country will be thrown open to vessels of every nation.—This will have the effect to increase commerce with San Francisco.

Gen. Lee, in a letter to Gen. Henry A. Wise declares that if the people will but sustain the soldiery he feels no apprehension about the issue of the contest.

Persons going to Mexico from San Francisco are now required to obtain permits from the U. S. Provost Marshal.

General McClellan and his family have arrived safely in England.


The Coolie trade is opening again. Three hundred arrived at Havana on the 18 ult.

Gold closed in New York last night, at 198½.

MARRIED.


In Washington, Feb. 16, in the Church of Epiphany, by the Rev. Dr. Hall, GEORGE H. MORGAN, of Marion county, Va., to Miss MARY J. DENMEAD, daughter Isaac Denmead, Esq., formerly of Baltimore, Md.

FOR RENT.

 STORE and DWELLING HOUSE, on Cameron street, between Royal and Pitt, next door to White's Grocery store. It is a good stand for business. Possession given immediately. Inquire of JAS. CHATHAM. feb 15—tf

FOR SALE.

 A GROCERY STORE, one of the best stands in the city. The stock is new and well assorted. No charge for good will. Enquire at this office. feb 9—tf

 EDGAR SNOWDEN SR'S OFFICE, corner of King and Royal streets, over Mr. Owings's Store, where he will receive subscriptions and advertisements for the ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE. Persons having business with the office, can transact it with him. feb 6—tf

DR. PAUL BERGER, Practising Physician,

Offers his services to the citizens of Alexandria, and the public generally.

Office 239, King Street, feb 9—1m* ALEXANDRIA VA.

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE
Job Printing Office,
King st., over Stone's Book Store, opp. Theatre
All Kinds of JOB PRINTING neatly executed.
jan 19—tf